



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: Is it within the scope of practice of an RCP to take a telephone order from an MD for 0.9% NaCl by inhalation in an outpatient setting? I write verbal/telephone orders daily for respiratory medications for inpatients and in our outpatient clinic. This particular order involves the patient taking the NaCl at home via nebulizer.

Response: Section 3702, subdivision (e), of the Laws and Regulations Relating to the Practice of Respiratory Care states, respiratory care, as a practice includes the following:
"The transcription and implementation of the written and verbal orders of a physician and surgeon pertaining to the practice of respiratory care.
"Respiratory care protocols" as used in this section means policies and protocols developed by a licensed health facility through collaboration, when appropriate, with administrators, physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, physical therapists, respiratory care practitioners, and other licensed health care practitioners."

You may also refer to Title 22 sections 70263 and 74701 or contact the Department of Health Services. Their contact information is included for your reference:

Department of Health Services
714/ 744 P Street,
Sacramento CA, 95814
(916) 445-4171

Reference # 2003-C-14 (revised)